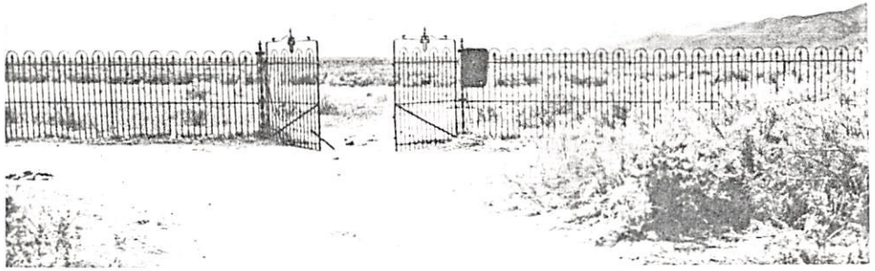
Johnston's Army remains at Camp Floyd from 1858 to May 1861

Camp Floyd, looking west toward the commanding general's quarters. J. H. Simpson expedition photograph, January 1859, National Archives.

In January 1859 two actresses, Mercy Tuckett and Mrs. Longee, refused to appear in any more dramatic productions on the post. It seems that the Military Dramatic Association wanted to present an anti-Mormon song that the actresses felt was very objectionable and "decidedly vulgar." A parody of "Root, Hog, or Die," it ridiculed the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith and the current church president Brigham Young. The *Valley Tan* reported that although all were anti-Mormon, the association "had not enough tack [*sic*] to know the difference between principle and interest."[39] The furor was so intense that the theater was closed for a time.

Nevertheless, the theater enjoyed success and served as entertainment for many. One evening Gen. and Mrs. M. S. Howe attended with "other ladies" and seventy-five laundresses of the Fifth and Seventh Infantries. William Lee thought it a "well gotten up affair." He described the drop curtain embellished by a representation of Camp Floyd with a regiment at dress parade saluting. He called the decorations "well designed, but badly executed" and thought that the orchestra was a very good string band. Another theatergoer took a



Gate into Camp Floyd cemetery near Fairfield, Utah, looking south. U.S. Army photograph by William P. Stephens, USHS collections.

former governor of Utah, in transmitting the deed for Carson's Inn at Fairfield to the state of Utah, suggested the 100-year old-building and land surrounding it (the area of Camp Floyd) were part of Utah's heritage. And an early writer suggested that women's presence in the frontier West was a mission of refinement second only to that of religion.[60]

They also set an example of loyalty and love for husbands and lovers. One woman's explanation for enduring life with the army was, "I had cast my lot with a soldier, and where he was, was home to me." Patience Rozsa felt it was her duty to accompany her husband and expressed her willingness to follow him anywhere and share in whatever hardships he might experience. Some felt a need to provide comfort and cheerful surroundings for their soldier spouses. Perhaps, then, this loyalty was their greatest legacy.[61]

But there is much more to learn from them. Unlike the soldiers they followed, "whose existence has been faithfully preserved in regimental histories and order books" and in reminiscences, the women of the frontier army may well be a "lost battalion."[62] Efforts to uncover and make known their lives have revealed them to be remarkable women. This account of their short existence in Utah Territory helps to create a more complete picture of the Utah Expedition.

[60]Martha Summerhays, *Vanished Arizona* (Chicago: Lakeside Press, 1939), p. 9; Isabella L. Bird, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* (New York, 1890), p. 286.

[61]Sibbald, "Camp Followers All," p. 56; Reminiscences of Patience Loader, p. 112.

[62]Sibbald, "Camp Followers All," p. 56.